



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	2026-0050	Version:	1
Type:	Will of Council	Status:	Adopted
File created:	1/16/2026	In control:	City Council
On agenda:	1/21/2026	Final action:	1/21/2026
Enactment date:	1/21/2026	Enactment #:	2
Effective date:	1/21/2026		
Title:	WHEREAS, Founded in 1972, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) was established as Pennsylvania's first rape crisis center and one of the earliest such organizations in the United States; and,		
Sponsors:	Deborah L. Gross, Kim Salinetto, Erika Strassburger, Barbara Warwick, All Members		
Indexes:	WILL OF COUNCIL		
Code sections:			
Attachments:			

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/21/2026	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

WHEREAS, Founded in 1972, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) was established as Pennsylvania's first rape crisis center and one of the earliest such organizations in the United States; **and**,

WHEREAS, PAAR emerged from a community response following sexual assaults during the 1971 World Series celebrations, when a task force formed by the National Organization for Women evolved into what is now PAAR; **and**,

WHEREAS, Over the decades, PAAR has grown from a volunteer-led helpline and advocacy effort into a comprehensive survivor-support organization and remains the only agency in Allegheny County solely dedicated to addressing sexual violence; **and**,

WHEREAS, PAAR also has a longstanding legacy of systems advocacy in Pennsylvania, including efforts to strengthen confidentiality protections for survivors and rape crisis communications; **and**,

WHEREAS, PAAR's mission is to respond, educate, and advocate to end sexual violence and PAAR provides essential, no-cost, trauma-informed services to survivors of sexual violence throughout Allegheny County; **and**,

WHEREAS, PAAR serves survivors of sexual assault, rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation or sex trafficking, as well as their loved ones, which includes services to children, teens, and adults of all genders and backgrounds; **and**,

WHEREAS, PAAR's core services include a 24/7 confidential helpline, in-person crisis response and accompaniment during hospital forensic exams, and advocacy at police stations and throughout criminal, civil, and campus processes; **and**,

WHEREAS, PAAR also operates the Child & Family Counseling Center, offers specialized services through

Project RISE for individuals experiencing commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking, and provides prevention education and training for schools, professionals, and community groups; **and,**

WHEREAS, In Allegheny County, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) serves as the sole rape crisis center, providing 24/7 crisis response, medical and legal advocacy, counseling, and prevention education to residents across the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding communities; **and,**

WHEREAS, In the past year alone, PAAR served nearly 2,500 survivors, approximately 15 percent of whom were children, underscoring both the scale and urgency of the need for these services locally; **and,**

WHEREAS, PAAR, like all rape crisis centers in Pennsylvania, has not received a state funding increase in six years, despite rising costs, workforce shortages, and increasing service demands; **and,**

WHEREAS, Prolonged underfunding has placed significant strain on staffing and service capacity in Allegheny County while centers remain contractually required to maintain continuous emergency response; **and,**

WHEREAS, Increased and timely state investment is essential to stabilize services in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County while ensuring that survivors across all 67 counties in Pennsylvania can access consistent, high-quality support when they need it most; **and,**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, affirms its commitment to the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of survivors of sexual violence, recognizes the critical and irreplaceable role of Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) and rape crisis centers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and calls upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to immediately include increased, ongoing funding for rape crisis centers in the next Commonwealth budget; **and,**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council recognizes that sustained and adequate investment is required to preserve uninterrupted 24-hour crisis response, trauma-informed care, prevention education, and advocacy for survivors and their families, and acknowledges the leadership and support of the Gender Equity Commission of the City of Pittsburgh in advancing this resolution.